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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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May 18, 1992

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HWS*

RE: Site Inspection, Murphy Mining Company, Unpermitted Mine, S/037/070, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 12, 1992
Time of Inspection: 4:00 - 4:30
Conditions: Warm, sunny
Participants: Dick Shumway; Holland Shepherd, DOGM

The purpose of this inspection was to evaluate an unpermitted mine site in East Canyon. Apparently, the claim holder is an individual by the name of Nick Murphy. This site has been here for awhile and I have seen it in the past. However, it was not apparent to me before that the site had been active for the past ten years. It is now obvious that the site has been active.

The operator was not present on the site at the time of this inspection. However, Mr. Shumway indicated to me that the probable operator is an individual by the name of Larry Hixon, 153 E. 300 N., Moab, Utah, phone: 259-5307. Also, another individual by the name of John Brown may be involved in the operation of the site.

In comparing conditions of the site three years ago with conditions now, it is obvious that an old portal has been reopened. There is mining machinery on site. There is a uranium/vanadium ore stockpile on site. There is a new trailer on site and various pieces of mining equipment. This site appears to have been worked as recently as last summer and fall. A new gate has been constructed across the access to the mine site and is locked. Also, the waste dump has been expanded. I accessed the site and took several pictures of the new disturbances on the site for the file.

I recommend that the Division contact the claim holder via a Notice of Non-Compliance. The claim holder, Nick Murphy, has been aware of the new rules and

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requirements of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. There was a DOE filed on this site many years ago. The operator has since been contacted about permitting the site under the new rules, which has never happened. The claim holder has been known to be uncooperative with regulatory people.

A file on this site is currently maintained at the Division, under D/037/038. A new file should be started under S/037/070. The site probably disturbs less than 5 acres.

This site is located close enough to the section boundary of federal and state land to make it difficult to designate as federal or state responsibility. Since the operator has filed a claim on the property it must be federal (⁰⁴¹or record indicate no state lease). I have notified the BLM concerning the operation. Ted McDougal of the San Juan Resource Area indicated he would take a look at it in the near future.

Photos have been made available from this inspection.

jb

cc: Bob Turri, San Juan RA, BLM
Lowell Braxton, DOGM

